



**Town & Gown**  
OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## **General Meeting Minutes October 4, 2022, 12:00 p.m.**

In-Person: Town and Gown Courtyard and Ballroom; ONLINE: Livestream

Pre-Meeting/Check-In and Socializing took place in the Town and Gown Courtyard. Thanks to **Mary Hall** and **Janyce Teasley**, Hospitality Co-Chairs, for organizing the smooth check in. General Meeting/ Live-streaming of the meeting began at 12:00 p.m. Members of the Trojan Marching Band entertained the attendees inside the Ballroom with their spirited music.

Flag Salute by **Debbie Wong**.

**Beth Petak-Aaron**, President and CEO of Town and Gown of USC welcomed everyone to the first General Meeting of the year. After the lunch was served, she then introduced Carol Kroesche, Benefit Chair.

**Carol Kroesche**, announced that on April 4, 2023 the Benefit will take place at Beverly Hills Hotel. She then introduced **Linda Dankwa**, a Critical Care Nurse at Keck Medicine of USC and a Board of Director of Town and Gown of USC and **Jacobo Herrera**, the Drum Major and a Town and Gown Scholar. Linda and Jacobo described and narrated background and accomplishments of this year's Benefit Honoree, Dexter Holland. A video of one of his songs played by the Trojan Marching Band was shown.

**Debbie Wong** asked the BOD to stand as a group, and then asked the Past Presidents to stand as a group to be acknowledged. **Bonnie Suffridge** introduced the Town and Gown of USC Supporters in attendance:

**Monique Allerd**, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs,  
**Tom Arteaga**, Director of Alumni Engagement, Rossier School of Education,  
**Patrick Auerbach**, Associate Senior Vice President for Alumni Relations,  
**Art Bartner**, former Director, Trojan Marching Band  
**Rachel Beal**, Executive Director of Advancement, Rossier School of Education,  
**Valerie Benzimra**, Director of Development, Marshall Office of the Associate Dean,  
**Janette Brown**, Assistant Vice Provost, Emeriti Center, Academic Affairs,  
**Sandra Campero**, Assistant Vice President, University Advancement,  
**Jeff Collins**, Program Assistant, Trojan Marching Band  
**Michelle Dao**, Associate Director of Development, USC Associates, University Advancement  
**Phoenix Delgado**, Associate Dean for Advancement, Thornton School of Music  
**Dontay Douglas**, Associate Director, Trojan Marching Band  
**Nancy Dreier**, Executive Director of USC Associates, University Advancement  
**Jennifer Floyd**, Senior Coordinator of Travel & Concerts, Trojan Marching Band  
**Rachel Hansen**, Special Project Manager, Trojan Marching Band  
**Danielle Harvey**, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations, University Advancement  
**Brett Padelford**, Arts Laboratory Technician, Trojan Marching Band

**Fei Yoa Phail**, University Comptroller's Office  
**Jessica Vogel**, wife of Dr. Jacob Vogel, Director, Trojan Marching Band  
**Jerry Wingate**, Director, USC Auxiliary Services Design  
**Steve Yamaguchi**, Senior Counsel, Office of General Counsel Operations

**Kate Farlow** and **Lisa Up de Graf**, the Physical Facilities and Historian Chairs spoke about Elisabeth von KleinSmid who was the T&G of USC's President from 1922-1947. She was committed to helping women. **Bianca Patterson** read "Her Philosophy" which depicts Elizabeth's philosophy of life.

**D'Arcy McCleod** and **Colleen Stryke**, 4<sup>th</sup> VP of Membership spoke about the status of Membership and encouraged anyone who is not a member to join. Colleen mentioned the new Membership business cards strewn on the tables. There is a QR code on them which opens the membership application form. As of 9/27/22, there are 762 members (432 annual 330 life members).

**Susie Rhodes**, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Scholarship, introduced Jacobo Herrera, the Scholar speaker.

**Jacobo Herrera**: Town and Gown of USC Scholar and the Drum Major of Trojan Marching Band (TMD). He thanked Town and Gown of USC and his donor for the opportunity the scholarship has given him. He spoke of his mentor, Dr. Jacob Vogel. He spent the first year at home due to the pandemic where he attended the TMB practice via zoom at 4:00 pm everyday. He learned the meaning of "Fight On" and what it means to be Trojan family. The band provided "home" for him at USC.

**Bonnie Suffridge** introduced the Guest speaker, Dr. Jacob Vogel, Director of Trojan Marching Band and read his bio.

**Dr. Jacob Vogel:**

He also started by thanking the Town and Gown of USC for inviting him and the band staff to be there. There are 250-270 TMB members and needs more Tubas! He then talked about his background; where he's from, about his family and his childhood and how he got to being the Director of the TMB. There are 3 people who are most influential: Art Bartner, Tony Fox, Jessica Vogel  
During the pandemic he incorporated technology to TMB: Digital music, drill charts and marching maneuvers, itineraries and gigs and rally music, Master tour.  
Band protects Tradition and legacy! His entire speech and presentation is documented and available on the Town and Gown of USC website.

**Bonnie Suffridge** presented a Thank you gift to the speaker.

**Debbie Wong** promoted the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting by showing a slide of the speaker.

Opportunity Drawing winners were selected by **Janyce Teasley & Mary Hall** with the help of **Cynthea Wiese**.

**Beth Petak-Aaron** asked all the Town and Gown of USC Scholars to stand and be recognized. She then thanked everyone for coming and the Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ayuko Siegel  
Secretary,  
Town and Gown of USC